

June 2002

Reality Check

Edna Laughrey

Earl Laughrey

Follow this and additional works at: <https://docs.lib.purdue.edu/atg>



Part of the [Library and Information Science Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Laughrey, Edna and Laughrey, Earl (2002) "Reality Check," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 14: Iss. 3, Article 21.
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.3994>

This document has been made available through Purdue e-Pubs, a service of the Purdue University Libraries. Please contact epubs@purdue.edu for additional information.

Papa Lyman Remembers ABA/BEA — Then and Now

by Lyman Newlin (Book Trade Counsellor)

Just as I began to write this piece, I glanced at the day's mail and found *Publishers Weekly* May 13 2002 on top of the pile. Sure enough the feature story is titled "BEA in New York: Bright and Busy, the Big Apple Brings Out the Crowds."

I do not in any way disagree with that lead — it was written by a pro, **John Mutter**, and its several pages (9-20) are packed with details. But I am a veteran **ABA** attendee — no I did not attend from **ABA's** startup in 1900! but I did begin attendance in the late 1930s and have missed very few since — from the long-gone **Sherman House Hotel** in Chicago to **BEA** at **Javits Center** in NYC May 3-5, 2002. My presence this time was, as it has been for the last twenty years, on behalf of **Fred Gullette's Book News**.

So here come some comments and some gripes. First: the venue. Without any doubt, **Javits** is the worst of any convention site I have ever encountered. It was a disaster, as was the **ABA** meeting there about ten years ago when NYC Fire Department trucks surrounded the building because the sprinkler system was not yet in operating condition. In May 2002, only one out of four elevators indicated for the handicapped could be depended upon to

mind level commands. Next, aisles: many were far too narrow; reminding one of those long ago in Washington's **Shoreham Hotel** or Chicago's **Hilton Hotel** garage. And what has happened to the restriction on using two-wheeled carts for toting luggage and books through those aisles? This from a compelled user of electric "scooters." Which brings up the utter neglect of **BEA/Javits** of the need for these scooters. I had been given a couple of names of scooter renters by **BEA** and made a reservation in March with credit card, etc. Upon arriving at **Javits**, not a single scooter was available. I was offered the last non-electric wheelchair available. Fortunately my son, **Fred**, was with me and spent six hours pushing — no easy task even for an athletic body to push over the lush carpeting of exhibits.

The above comment is in contrast to **ALA's** handling of help for the handicapped: scooters are always available to members at conventions and are rent-free to members.

Here are some further comments: **BEA's** Madison Avenue approach: phony "Retail Value \$40" printed on the front cover of the **Official Directory and Buyers' Guide**. I trust that there were no suckers for this.

BEA obviously considers **Frankfurt** to be a competitor. I observed untrampled aisles consigned to foreign publishers and

long faces at many exhibitors' booths in the 2200 and 2300 aisles. Exceptions were several nice food and drink parties in these foreign publisher aisles which attracted crowds of free-loaders, including this writer. (Apologies to **Herbert Lottman**, *PW*, May 13, p. 16.)

After all this griping I want to say that after fifty or more **ABA** shows I still find great pleasure in attending. Although most of the attendees from my earliest show visits are retired or gone on to eternal book activity, I get a thrill that I can't explain when I see publishers and sellers from past years... Ignorance and therefore fear of electronic publishing still rule my mind but my fear does not get out of control because **Mr. Mutter** and reports from **Frankfurt** shows sprinkle enough information about print-on-demand activities (in which I am hoping to soon produce one or two books for which I have rights) to maintain my strong conviction that the printed book is here to stay for eons to come.

Let's express the hope now that all who are enticed by the thought of Los Angeles in 2003 are happily satisfied and that we all survive until 2004 to attend **BEA** in that city of cities and hall of all convention halls, **McCormick Center** in Chicago. And let's stay there!!!



Reality Check

by Edna and Earl Laughrey
(Phone: 734-429-1029; Fax:
734-429-1711)

Book Expo is a wonderful place to see books, meet authors and get to know more about the publishing industry. We attended **BEA** again this year and found a perception we think is not accurate. Consequently, we need your help.

We believe librarians use the following sources to select materials: **ALA** publications (including *Choice*), *Against the Grain*, *Library Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, vendor bibliographic slips, and publisher flyers. For people who have comprehensive collections in a specific subject area, a variety of society and association publications are used.

What other publications do librarians use to select material?

Please respond to:
<elaughrey@hotmail.com>

Fair Use or Foul Play from page 63

the payment of a small fee each time a library patron accesses a digital book or video documentary. Copyright owners already use "click on" licenses to limit what purchasers of a copyrighted work may do with it. Some eBook licenses go so far as to make it a violation of the license to even criticize the contents of a work, let alone to make a copy of a paragraph or two. The **Uniform Computer Information Transactions Act (UCITA)** contains just such a stipulation that will become law in those states which pass **UCITA**.

Corrective Actions

The Supreme Court agreed on February 19, 2002, to hear *Eldred v. Ashcroft*

which challenges the **Sonny Bono Copyright Term Extension Act**. Rep. **Rick Boucher**, who introduced the bill that eventually became the **DMCA**, wants **Congress** to revise section 1201, which can be used to keep library patrons from copying even a paragraph from a book without making a separate payment, to counter the emerging threat to fair-use values. He also wants to limit criminal circumvention to the purpose of infringing a copyright. This would provide adequate protection for copyright owners without infringing on the legitimate fair-use rights of consumers, libraries, educators, and other users. The **Copyright Law** should preserve the balance between the interests of copyright owners and the rights of information consumers.